

Soweto rally attacked; 2 killed

CAPE TOWN (R) — Attackers lobbed hand grenades at blacks attending a political rally in Soweto Sunday, killing two people and wounding more than 30, police and witnesses said. The attack at South Africa's biggest township came amid an upsurge of weekend violence. Five blacks were killed in a shanty town bantus in Natal province, and blacks burned a 70-year-old white farmer to death near Johannesburg. Witnesses said two hand grenades were thrown from behind a house into a crowd of more than 100 people at an open-air rally in Soweto, a sprawling township near Johannesburg. The rally, in the township of Orlando West, was held by a conservative Soweto party called "Sofokane," a Zulu word meaning "we will die together." The Sofokane party, headed by former Soweto Mayor Ephraim Tshabalala, is opposed by young black militants because it took part in Pretoria-sponsored black municipal elections. Saturday's death toll in the fear-sicken townships around the Natal capital of Pietermaritzburg was one of the highest since police reinforcements were sent in last January to stop black-against-black fighting.

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King sends good wishes to W. Germany

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to West German President of Richard von Weizsaecker congratulating him on his country's National Day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and wishing the West German people further progress and prosperity.

Holiday declared

AMMAN (Petra) — Wednesday, May 25, will be observed as a public holiday in Jordan and all government departments and public institutions will be closed to mark the Kingdom's Independence Day, according to an official communiqué issued by the Prime Ministry Sunday. Press reports said earlier that the two interchanges at the Interior Ministry and the Sports City would be formally opened for traffic on Independence Day at a ceremony to be held under royal patronage. Municipal teams are reported hard at work preparing for the inauguration, according to Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

Resistance reports anti-SLA attack

BEIRUT (R) — Resistance fighters said they killed or wounded 15 members of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) Sunday in three raids on SLA posts. A statement by the Islamic Resistance, grouping Hezbollah (Party of God) and other factions, said the attacks were launched inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon. It said one of its own fighters was killed, during the exchange of machinegun fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

Walters in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Vernon Walters, arrived Sunday to sound out Kuwaiti officials on the best ways of implementing U.N. calls for a ceasefire in the Gulf war, informed sources said. The sources said the Iran-Iraq war along with the latest Middle East peace moves by Washington would top the talks. Walters arrived here from Iraq.

Khartoum suffers bread shortage

KHARTOUM (R) — Wheat rationing has been imposed in Khartoum to combat severe shortages of bread, the official Sudan News Agency reported Sunday. The agency quoted an official source as saying the Sudanese capital was short of 6,000 to 7,000 bags of wheat flour a day, representing about half its normal bread consumption. The source blamed the crisis on inadequate transport to bring flour from Port Sudan, the country's only major port.

War corpses wash up on Kuwaiti shores

KUWAIT (R) — Bodies of Iranians killed in Gulf war fighting last month have washed up along the southern Kuwaiti coast, Kuwaiti newspapers reported Sunday. Photographs distributed by the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) showed bodies on the beach near Ras Al Zawr, 80 kilometres south of Kuwait City. The papers quoted Iraqi reports as saying the bodies were those of Iranian Revolutionary guards killed during Iraq's successful bid last month to recapture the Fao Peninsula 130 kilometres northeast of Ras Al Zawr.

Algeria, Morocco appoint ambassadors

RABAT (R) — Algeria and Morocco Sunday named the first ambassadors to be exchanged after a 12-year diplomatic rift. Officials said Dr. Abdellatif Berbich, a cardiologist and secretary of the Moroccan royal academy, will be Moroccan ambassador in Algiers. Berbich, who is not a career diplomat, is a close personal friend of King Hassan of Morocco. The Algerian envoy will be Abdellatif Mekhri, a career diplomat who has represented Algeria in France.

3 more Arabs killed in W. Bank flare-up

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian woman and her son were burned to death Sunday when their car exploded in unclear circumstances and a third Palestinian died after a clash with Israeli soldiers.

It was the deadliest day in nearly three weeks in the occupied territories where the Palestinians have staged a violent uprising against Israeli rule since Dec. 8. The fatalities brought to 194 the number of Palestinians killed in the uprising.

Three other confrontations left three Palestinian teenagers wounded by army gunfire and an Israeli man seriously injured by burns suffered in a firebombing, hospital and military officials said.

Sbamsh Al Kadah, 65, and her son Mohammad Salab Ghaneim, 36, died when their car blew up at the entrance to Shuweika, a village of 1,500 Palestinians about 100 kilometres northwest of Jerusalem, hospital

officials and witnesses said.

Both Israel Radio and an official at Israel's Abu Kabir pathological institute where the bodies were taken for autopsies reported the early morning explosion was caused by a firebomb.

Villagers and military sources said the firebomb appeared to have been aimed at an Israeli army jeep travelling in front of the Palestinian-owned automobile. Other reports said Israeli soldiers had opened fire at the car.

In other weekend clashes, an Israeli man suffered serious burns when his car was hit by a firebomb as he drove through the West Bank city of Jericho, the army said.

Piles of black ashes, a dead pigeon, a woman's slipper and metal debris from the automobile were scattered up to 15 metres from the site of the car fire at the entrance to Shuweika.

Villagers in Shuweika said the

(Continued on page 5)

Syria, Iran finalise plans for troop deployment in s. Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian and Iranian negotiators finalised plans Sunday for 7,000 Syrian troops to move into Beirut's southern suburbs to halt 16 days of bloody street battles, pro-Syrian sources said.

"Syria is carrying out consultations with other regional and international powers on the final touches of the deployment before ordering its troops in," one source told Reuters.

"It is a calculated deployment, which both Syria and Iran want to be carried out with the least losses and casualties.

"They are discussing every

single step to spare more bloodshed and avoid a military confrontation with Iran's allies in Lebanon," the source added.

The talks coincided with the first full in fighting between militiamen of the Syrian-backed Amal and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God). Battles for control of the slum district have killed 260 people.

Residents emerged into the sunlight after days huddled in underground shelters to escape artillery, mortar and rocket fire.

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual mentor of Hezbollah, told the independent

Al Anwar newspaper: "The doors of the southern suburbs are open for the Syrian troops and there is no intention to fight them."

He said the disarming of militiamen in the suburbs should be the first stage of a plan to disarm other militias in Lebanon.

Hezbollah pitted about 2,000 fighters against 1,500 Amal militiamen and gained control of about 80 per cent of the area during the fighting which began May 6.

Syrian troops, backed by tanks and armoured personnel carriers, are ringing the slums, where some of the 22 foreigners missing in Lebanon are thought to be held hostage.

The Abu Dhabi-based Al Ittihad newspaper reported Sunday that Syria and Iran had reached an eight-point agreement to defuse the situation in Beirut and that Hezbollah had given a pledge to the Syrians to protect the safety of the hostages (See page 5).

The paper said 25 armoured cars of Hezbollah and 200 members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, fighting alongside Hezbollah in the 17-day struggle, would be given free passage to the Bekaa Valley in east Lebanon.

The agreement calls for closure of armed positions of Amal and Hezbollah, but allows each group one principal headquarters to be guarded by their own men under Syrian supervision.

The agreement affirms the right of the Syrian forces to implement any military act that is deemed suitable if the safety of Syrian forces or the safety of citizens in the suburbs is threatened.

A side street parallel to the home of Fadlallah would remain closed for security necessities in line with the situation around the home of Amal leader Nabih Berri in west Beirut.

It is the only inhabited village

No Noriega deal yet, but drug charges may be dropped

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration said Sunday it had not yet struck a deal to force Panama's strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega from power but made clear it might drop drug charges against him to secure that objective.

"We have had a lot of discussion with him and we have not concluded any agreement," Secretary of State George Shultz said in a television interview.

Shultz said it would be desirable to bring Noriega to the United States to stand trial on drug trafficking charges but said the administration did not have the power to extradite him from Panama.

"So you ask yourself: which situation are we better off in? To have Noriega in charge in Panama, and us with an indictment that we can't do much about but are nevertheless holding on to?" Shultz asked.

"Or having Noriega giving up power in Panama and leaving Panama but also, having paid that penalty, not having the indictment hanging over his head?" he said.

"Now there are very important arguments to be made on all sides of that issue. There is a real judgment to be made, and it is a difficult judgment," Shultz said.

President Reagan's national security adviser, Lieutenant-General Colin Powell, said the central feature of the deal the administration wants would be Noriega's ouster as head of Panama's defence forces and de facto ruler.

"Over the past several months, we have been able to put together a deal which would require General Noriega to step down from power. He would then leave the country for a period of time," Powell said in a television interview.

Reagan, Powell, Shultz, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Webster and other high-ranking officials met at the White House Saturday to hear a report from the U.S. negotiator in the secret talks aimed at ousting Noriega.

They were relatives of Moustafa Hussein Kaffa, a Turkish Cypriot killed Saturday in the U.N.-controlled buffer zone village of Pyla in a shoot-out with an Austrian lieutenant.

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Gorbachev optimistic over strategic treaty

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev told U.S. journalists this week he was optimistic about prospects for a U.S.-Soviet agreement on a 50 per cent reduction in strategic nuclear weapons before U.S. President Ronald Reagan leaves office.

Gorbachev, in an interview in Moscow with the Washington Post and Newsweek magazine, also said he would ask Reagan to approve a joint Soviet-U.S. unmanned flight to Mars when the two men meet in Moscow for the May 29-June 2 summit, their fourth.

Details of the interview and Gorbachev's answers to written questions submitted in March were released Saturday by Newsweek and published in Sunday editions of the Post. Editors from the two news organisations inter-

viewed Gorbachev for 90 minutes Wednesday.

Asked about his answer to a written question on the 50 per cent reduction in strategic offensive weapons, Gorbachev said: "We want to have that signed."

He said if the agreement "comes to be drafted under the present U.S. administration, I see no reason why President Reagan and I should not sign it. I would certainly welcome that."

Asked to evaluate Reagan, Gorbachev responded: "I'm not particularly fond of giving personal sonar character references. But since you ask, I would like to say that realism is an important quality in President Reagan as a politician."

"By this I mean the ability to adapt one's views to the changing situation, while remaining faithful to one's convictions."

Gorbachev implied that he was willing to meet Reagan in a fifth summit to sign a new strategic arms control agreement even if it had to be left for Reagan's successor to send to the Senate for ratification.

The Soviet leader said he was ready to continue the new era of "very productive dialogue," with the next U.S. president.

"Why shouldn't we try to work together?" Gorbachev asked.

"We have great experience, you have great experience — let us cooperate to master the cosmos, to fulfil big programmes."

Gorbachev said that as a result of a joint project to study Halley's Comet, the superpowers had been able to develop dozens of new materials and make major advances in electronics and in mathematics.

"We are going to invite the

president," Gorbachev said, holding up a model of a Soviet rocket, "to cooperate on a flight to Mars."

During the wide-ranging interview, the Soviet leader acknowledged his political and economic reforms were facing "more difficulties than before." But he said people took a more intense interest in seeing "an end to stagnation, and end to apathy."

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Qadhafi visits Tunisia before OAU summit

TUNISIA (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi arrived in Tunisia Sunday in an apparent bid to push for expanded regional cooperation and enlist support on Chad before this week's Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit. Qadhafi's hastily-arranged visit seemed to be an attempt to build on last week's rapprochement between Algeria and Mauritania. The resumption of diplomatic relations between these two countries, at odds over the 12-year Western Sahara war, revived hopes of a new regional alliance. Qadhafi's historically turbulent region, Libya's borders with its neighbours as part of Qadhafi's vision of all-embracing Arab unity has been a stumbling block for attempts this year to include Tripoli in a 1983 pact linking Tunisia, Algeria and Mauritania. Qadhafi and Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, whose own country resumed ties in December after a two-year break, were meeting amid tight security in a tourist hotel. The Libyan leader raised his clenched fist to salute waiting crowds as he walked to the hotel on this holiday island.



Alexander Zinckuk

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The conflicts of the Middle East are expected to assume a "high and prominent place" on the agenda of the May 29-June 2 superpower summit in Moscow and special emphasis will be given to the proposed Middle

Zinckuk: Mideast figures high on superpower summit agenda

East peace conference, Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinckuk said Sunday.

At a press conference held at the Soviet embassy, Zinckuk noted that the United States, which had always "adamantly" rejected the idea of an international peace conference, now accepts the proposal but Moscow and Washington remain divided on the effectiveness and authorities of such a forum.

The basic change in the U.S. attitude, Zinckuk said, was a result of combined Arab efforts spearheaded by Jordan and pressure from the Soviet Union.

"The United States is now willing to accept the idea of an

international peace conference, but only as a cocktail party with no authoritative power," Zinckuk said.

Zinckuk reiterated the Soviet position that the conference should be "comprehensive and effective" and based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all concerned parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Zinckuk said the Soviet Union would not resume diplomatic ties with Israel until the Zionist state agrees to attend an effective peace conference aimed at securing

international withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and allowing Palestinians to exercise their legitimate rights. The conference should not be just "an umbrella for bilateral talks," he said.

Zinckuk said that while the Soviet Union insists on an "effective" peace conference, it does not call for one which would dictate or impose any solution on the parties of the conflict. The conference should allow all the parties to "express their point of view in a positive manner which would help constructive development in peace talks," he said.

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq says Iranian F-14, helicopter shot down

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said it shot down an Iranian F-14 fighter-bomber and a helicopter Sunday in separate dogfights over the Gulf and the northern warfront.

The daily high command communiqué said Iraqi planes intercepted the U.S.-made jet over the Gulf and downed it at noon. It said the Iranian plane exploded and fell into the sea in burning fragments.

Iraqi helicopter gunships spotted two Iranian Bell helicopters over the northern war zone, the communiqué said. One was shot down and crashed in flames "in enemy territory" while the other fled.

Iraqi planes flew 76 sorties against Iranian military positions Sunday and all returned safely to base, the statement said.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Sunday an Iraqi warplane flying over the Iranian town of Ilam, 200 kilometres east of Baghdad and 30 kilometres inside the border was driven off by heavy ground-to-air fire.

The Ahu Dhabi-based Al Ittihad newspaper reported Sunday that Syria and Iran had reached an eight-point agreement to defuse the situation in Beirut and that Hezbollah had given a pledge to the Syrians to protect the safety of the hostages (See page 5).

The paper said 25 armoured cars of Hezbollah and 200 members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, fighting alongside Hezbollah in the 17-day struggle, would be given free passage to the Bekaa Valley in east Lebanon.

The agreement calls for closure of armed positions of Amal and Hezbollah, but allows

2 National News

Caring for the handicapped in Gaza

"THE IMAGE of the mentally handicapped has improved... Once, the school's teachers were embarrassed to tell others where they worked; now, the centre has one of the highest application rates for jobs throughout Gaza." These words come from a 1985 report prepared by the Society for the Care of Handicapped Children in Gaza, which runs the Sun Day Care Centre.

They are an indication of the progress that has been made in overcoming obstacles like social attitudes to the mentally and physically handicapped, since the society was established in 1975 as a charity under Ottoman law.

In developing countries, the handicapped do not usually receive the attention they need, and mental and physical problems are still seen as a source of shame and embarrassment.

Under the present conditions in Gaza, one would have expected the handicapped to suffer further neglect, given the magnitude of the problems caused by the occupation of the strip since 1967.

However, the Society for the Care of Handicapped Children has not only been able to rouse public concern and action, it has also been able to identify the dimensions and scale of the problem, and to set up centres for education and training.

According to estimates based on research and field work in the early 1980s by a visiting Canadian expert, Dr. Alfred Neufeldt, and the society's Chairman Dr. Hatem Abu Ghazaleh, there may be as many as 12,000 children and 11,250 adults over the age of 20 who require special support in Gaza.

The estimated total of the number of handicapped children, 1,600 suffered moderate to profound degrees of handicap, and another 6,000 were mildly handicapped; the rest were slower than normal and needed special educational help because of disadvantaged backgrounds.

In 1984 and 1985, the society

undertook a comprehensive survey of Gaza households to arrive at an exact figure of the number of handicapped, and to establish the extent to which environmental factors affected the incidence of handicap.

Shacks transformed

When the society's Sun Day Care Centre was inaugurated in 1976, it was only able to care for 14 mentally handicapped children.

The centre consisted of an unused shack that had been converted into small classrooms.

Today, the centre cares for close to a 100 children and adolescents, and many of its facilities are housed in new buildings that were erected with help from international development agencies and charities, and several Palestinian philanthropists.

The dedication of the staff to the society's aims, and the support of agencies and individuals from Canada, the U.S. and Europe, have enabled the society to develop a complex network of operations based on the centre and reaching out to the community at large.

At the centre itself, the children receive education, training, counselling — and breakfast and a hot lunch.

Their day begins with a physical training session, and simple exercises such as jumping, hopping and arm circles, to help improve coordination and motor ability.

There is a gymnasium where students take part in further activities to improve their motor skills (they may not be able to walk or run properly), and exercises are made more difficult as the students improve.

The students are also given regular instruction in reading and writing, and other skills such as arithmetic.

Vocational training is a major part of the curriculum, and there are workshops for boys and girls.

The boys learn to make bam-

boo furniture, woodwork, baskets and cushions, and the girls learn sewing, knitting, crochet and embroidery.

Other training prepares the students for eventual employment, in fields such as gardening and building maintenance.

The centre houses a library, and there are rooms where teachers can prepare materials and learn how to use teaching aids.

Of the 97 children enrolled at the centre in 1985, 55 had been there for some three years. Five had found employment in the community, and three had been hired by the school itself in domestic and maintenance positions.

The placement of students in paid employment was still small, according to centre staff, because so many were still young; it was hoped that more would eventually find employment in the community.

In spite of its success, the society is acutely conscious that there is a waiting list of over 450 children that the centre has no room for, and that its services are stretched to the limit.

Out-reach programmes

The space limitations are partly due to the restrictions on expansion imposed by the authorities.

In any case, it is important to care for the handicapped in their own communities, as research has shown that this improves their ability.

Thus, the society's long term aim is to turn the centre into a model school and a resource centre for the region, and to develop out-reach programmes for the handicapped.

At the moment, the society has two major out-reach programmes.

The first is a Mothers' Home Training/Early Intervention Programme. This involves teachers in reaching the handicapped at early ages, and training their families in ways of caring

for them and of maximising their abilities.

An American academic and expert in the care of handicapped, Dr. David Shearer, visited Gaza in 1983 to lay the groundwork for the programme.

Members of the centre's staff were sent to the United States and Canada for training, so that they, in turn, trained the "home educators." The home educators, who were high school graduates, trained mothers with handicapped children, and the children themselves.

By 1985, the Mothers' Home Training programme had about 20 teachers, each of whom served an average of 18 children and families; the total number of handicapped children reached was 325, and their ages ranged from a few months to 8 years old.

The consultant who established the programme returned to assess its progress, and was impressed by the teachers' enthusiasm.

He saw "clusters of teachers scattered throughout the offices (at the centre) discussing specific problems that a particular teacher may be having."

The home teachers, all women who lived in the communities they served, kept detailed records on the progress of the children and their families.

The consultant also observed the commitment of the families to making use of the new opportunities that had been made available to their handicapped children.

Of a total of 6,460 planned visits during the period the consultant reviewed, 92% were in fact carried out.

Visits were only missed when the family faced emergencies or serious problems, and not because of laxness on the part of the parents.

Other consultants invited to assess the programme made suggestions for some improvements in training and for involving medical practitioners, but were also impressed with the progress of the programme and its benefit to the community.

The society is already supervising the construction of a pilot 2-classroom unit in a school in Beach Camp. Each classroom can accommodate 10 students, and there will be toilet and other facilities suitable for wheelchair use.

Once the results of the pilot classroom project have been assessed, there are plans for units in schools throughout the region. The society also has plans for vocational out-reach programmes.

The society's future plans include setting up a diagnostic and counselling centre which would house physicians, physiotherapists, speech therapists, and other medical personnel. It would also provide counselling on family intermarriage and environmental hazards that can result in mental or physical handicaps. The society also has plans for a recreation and leisure centre, and a programme for severely handicapped children.

The Committee noted that there were no problems between participating schools — quite the contrary: Schools at which the computers were centred often offered to stay open after hours to accommodate classes from participating schools, as well as on holidays and at weekends.

— Tammy



Handicapped children in Gaza begin their day with a physical training session. (insert) Handicapped boy receives vocational training (Tammy photos)

Special classes in normal schools

The society's second out-reach programme involves the construction of special classroom units for handicapped children in already-existing, normal schools in the region.

It has been established that handicapped children progress more quickly when they grow up alongside normal children.

Further, building special classrooms for the handicapped in schools throughout the region would enable them to receive special care and attention close to their home communities.

It would also teach children who did not suffer from handicaps to understand the problems faced by their less fortunate schoolmates and to accommodate them in the community.

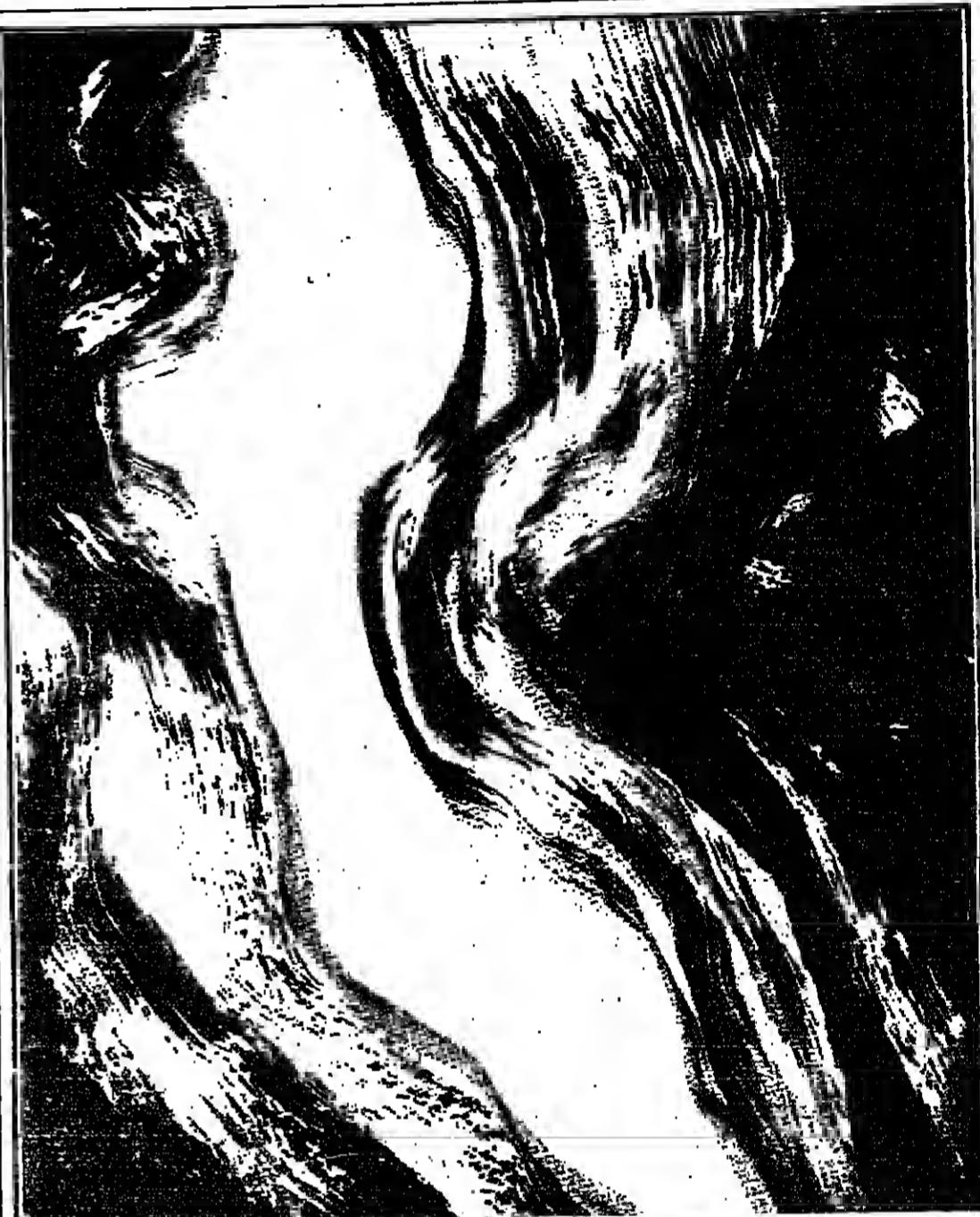
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SHOMAN EXHIBITION: A painting exhibition by Suha Shoman entitled 'The Legend of Petra' was opened Sunday at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman under the patronage of Her

Highness Princess Fakhruunisa Zaid. The exhibition will last until June 2, and its proceeds will benefit the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Computers move into West Bank schools

A PROGRAMME to introduce computers into West Bank schools was initiated in 1985, and, if all goes well, there should be 18 computer centres serving between two and three schools each by 1991.

The programme is being supervised by the Birzeit University Computers in Schools Committee. The Committee includes a group of concerned academics who had noted both the dearth of modern facilities in West Bank schools, and the lack of proper planning and supervision in those schools that had been able to afford the cost of buying and installing computers.

Before launching a full-scale programme, the Committee carried out a pilot project to test out such factors as student response, teacher preparedness and materials. Funding for the programme was made available locally — with schools covering the cost of stationery, space and teachers'

salaries — and through donations from European development agencies, which were used to purchase the computers and associated materials.

The schools chosen as centres for the trial period were based in Ramallah (a coeducational school was chosen as centre, and it served a neighbouring boys' school, in Beit Hanina (serving two girls' schools), and in Jerusalem (serving one boys' school and two girls' schools).

In making its selection, the Committee wanted to avoid widening the technology gap between schools and to make computers available on a fair region-wide basis. It also sought to encourage academic cooperation between schools, and to encourage student participation.

After studying several bids for hardware, the Committee selected the Televideo PC micro-computer, and 40 sets were purchased and installed in the schools serving as centres. Four teachers were hired, and the courses began in selected classrooms, with a maximum of two students per computer.

which greatly increased the students' powers of concentration, the Committee noted. In all, 723 students were to take part at the six schools.

First preparatory students used the book "An introduction to computers" prepared by Committee members and teachers. Students at higher levels were given worksheets, which would later be used as the bases of books for the higher levels. The programme coordinators were also studying the suitability of an Arabic-language programme to be introduced alongside the English language ones.

The Committee noted that there were no problems between participating schools — quite the contrary: Schools at which the computers were centred often offered to stay open after hours to accommodate classes from participating schools, as well as on holidays and at weekends.

— Tammy

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabal Amman. 3rd Circle.

* Art exhibition by George Kaplanian at the Goethe Institute.

* Plastic art exhibition by Ghada Al-Sabah at Petra Art Gallery.

* Art and handicraft exhibition at Rosary College, Jabal Amman.

* Compositions Florales at 6:00 p.m. French Cultural Centre.

FEATURE FILM

* The Magnificent Ambersons* at 7:00 p.m., American Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre ... Tel. 6610267

American Centre ... 643471

American Centre library ... 641520

British Council ... 6361478

French Cultural Centre ... 637093

Goethe Institute ... 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre ... 642023

Spanish Cultural Centre ... 626409

Turkish Cultural Centre ... 639777

Haya Arts Centre ... 6610170

Y.W.M.A. ... 641793

Amman Municipal Library ... 637111

Univ. of Jordan Library ... 843555

MUSEUMS

Children's Heritage and Science Museum Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 622605.

Roman Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00

12:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tel. 815817.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 ... Koran 15:50 ... Programme review 16:00 ... Cartoons 16:40 ... Al-Manahil (children's educational programmes) 17:05 ... Cartoons 17:35 ... Educational programme Local series 18:00 ... News 18:30 ... Our Army 19:35 ... Programme review 20:00 ... News in Arabic 20:30 ... Arabic News 21:30 ... Live transmission - Football 23:00 ... News summary in Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 ... Un Cahef au Soleil 19:00 ... News in French 19:15 ... Weekly Sport magazine (French) 19:30 ... News in Hebrew 20:00 ... News in Arabic 20:30 ... Persian News 21:00 ... Masterworks 21:10 ... Secret Army 22:00 ... News in English 22:30 ... Feature film: "The Hiding"

RADIO JORDAN 855 kHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9560 kHz SW Tel. 774111-19

07:00 ... Light Music 07:30 ... News 08:00 ... Morning Show 10:00 ... News 10:30 ... Jet a Minute 11:00 ... Good Vibrations 11:30 ... News 12:00 ... News Summary 13:00 ... News 13:30 ... Pop Session 14:00 ... News Bulletin 14:30 ... Special Feature Concert Hour 15:00 ... News Summary 15:30 ... Instruments 16:00 ... Old Favourites 16:30 ... Young Sound 17:30 ... Pop Session 18:00 ... News Summary 18:30 ... Sports Roundup 18:45 ... Music 19:00 ... News Desk 19:30 ... News with a Star 20:00 ... Evening Show 21:00 ... News Summary 21:30 ... Evening Show 22:00 ... News Summary 22:30 ... Evening Show Continued

23:00 ... News Summary 23:35 ... Evening Show Continued 24:00 ... Close Down

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Queen Noor visits Wadi Rum

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday visited Wadi Rum in the southern regions of the Kingdom.

Accompanied by Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni and the President of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Aamis Muasher, the Queen inspected areas which would be developed to attract tourists, and discussed facilities and utilities that should be introduced for achieving that goal.

Ajlouni stated later that the Ministry of Tourism will carry out studies on the Wadi Rum region to help stimulate tourist visits and to introduce facilities that can help achieve that purpose.

Ajlouni Saturday accompanied Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammami on a visit to the home of Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali, the leader of the Great Arab Revolt and inspected restoration work carried out by specialists to transform the home into a national museum.

Ajlouni said that a team from the Ministries of Tourism and Culture and National Heritage as well as the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) carried out the restoration work at the home in the southern parts of the country.

ARA Director Bassam Qaqish, who accompanied the two ministers on the inspection tour, said that a local engineering office has laid down designs to improve the yard in front of the old home providing for a small theatre to be set up there for cultural activities, together with other services.

ARA has allocated JD 200,000 for the project which is being carried out in stages. Qaqish said in an interview with Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The two ministers also inspected the historic Aqaba Fort.



Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Daudin receives U.N. human rights team in Amman Sunday (Petra photo)

Daudin, U.N. rights team discuss situation in occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A three-member United Nations human rights team now on a visit to Jordan Sunday met with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Daudin with whom they reviewed the general situation in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Daudin spoke in length about Israel's practices and human rights violations and the serious consequences on the Palestinian people in the occupied regions.

Since June 1967, the Israelis have seized 2,756,076 dunums of Arab land in the West Bank and nearly 30 per cent of the total area of the Gaza Strip for setting up Jewish settlements, the minister noted.

He said that so far, 190 Jewish settlements have been set up in the Arab territory housing 58,000

Jewish settlers.

So far, Israel has spent \$20 billion on setting up these settlements on land occupied since 1967. Daudin pointed out.

Regarding Arab detainees in Israel's jails the minister said that their number now stands at 15,000, mostly arrested in the current uprising.

Since 1987 Israel has demolished 178 Arab homes under various pretexts and has violated the sanctity of educational institutions such as schools and universities, many of which had been closed on several occasions, the minister said.

Daudin submitted a report to the team of Israel's various human rights violations in the occupied territories between June 1987 and until last month.

The team, led by Sri Lanka's U.N. Ambassador Daya Pereira, met Saturday with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, who said that the uprising was a natural reaction to Israel's 20 years of occupation and oppression.

He told the team about Israel's arbitrary measures and reviewed the living conditions of Palestinians in the Israeli occupied territories.

The panel will report to the U.N. General Assembly on their findings in the region.

Amman is the first stop in the team's current Middle East tour which will also take them to Egypt and Syria. Israel has refused to allow the U.N. group into the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

159 poisoning cases reported

Ministry to complete tests on contaminated water today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry announced Sunday that by Monday it will complete laboratory tests on water which was thought to have caused poisoning in four districts in the Eastern regions of the capital.

The Health Ministry was entrusted by the government to conduct the tests following reported poisoning cases over the past few days in which at least 159 persons were affected.

At least 159 people were reported to have suffered from vomiting and diarrhoea after drinking the contaminated water, and were treated in local hospitals including the military hospital in Marqa.

Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Anwar Bilbeisi was quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily as saying there were no reported deaths as a result of the mishap, and out of the total number of affected people, only nine were still hospitalised.

He said that his ministry's special teams have been estimating the situation and providing the Health Ministry with water samples for testing.

Bilbeisi said that water pumping was disrupted over the past five days because of the situation and due to current repair work on the old water networks.

However, the government ordered that no resumption of water pumping can take place until the pipes had been cleaned, maintenance work completed and laboratory tests made public.

In the meantime, according to Bilbeisi, water is being supplied by water tanker trucks to the five districts which are: North Marka, South Marka, Schneller Refugee

Camp and Ruseifa.

Al Ra'i reporters interviewed some of those affected by the contaminated water and found that they were admitted to hospital after suffering from vomiting and diarrhoea.

Hospital sources and pharmacists in these districts said that they offered treatment to hundreds of people affected by the contamination and added that people they know were using bottled water were not affected at all.

The paper quoted informed sources as saying that the contamination could have been caused by existing old water networks which are now being replaced by the water authority.

The sources said that the Greater Amman region consumes some 39 million cubic metres of water annually, but 44 per cent of this quantity is not used by people and is rather lost through leakage in old pipes.

The water situation in the

Kingdom and studies on water projects prepared by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation were reviewed by the cabinet at its weekly meeting Saturday.

The projects ensure sufficient water supplies for the Kingdom in the coming 20 years, according to a cabinet statement.

It said that JD 219,000 has been allocated for a project that entails drawing drinking water at the Zay region, west of Amman, and providing sufficient supplies of water for the capital's residents during the summer season.

The water situation, the statement said, will be discussed by the cabinet at future meetings.

At Saturday's session Prime Minister Zaid Rifai briefed the ministers on the general political situation and Jordan's position. The cabinet endorsed an agreement for obtaining a \$26 million loan from the World Bank to finance the Telecommunications Corporation's five-year plan.

Cabinet endorses Jordan-Egypt protocol

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The cabinet Sunday announced its endorsement of a Jordanian-Egyptian protocol concluded in Cairo earlier this month to boost trade exchanges between the two countries and to organise trade fairs for promoting the sale of their national products.

The protocol sets the annual volume of bilateral trade at \$250 million for the current year.

Ministry of Industry and Trade

Secretary General Mohammad Al Saqqaf, who signed the protocol for Jordan, said the goods covered under the agreement would be exempted from customs duty and all other fees in either country.

Saqqaf said that the two sides agreed on organising a trade fair for each country in the capital of the other and to allow for direct sale of goods to the public.

Jordan, under the agreement, will purchase Egyptian rice, cotton, aluminium, ammonia, broad beans, and fertilisers, while Egypt needs Jordanian cement, raw material for manufacturing detergents, paints, copper, lead, aluminium fluoride, glass and rock wool.

The cabinet also announced its approval of a JD 16 million budget for the Housing Corporation during 1988.

The cabinet has appointed L... Munther Al Masri as secretary general of the Ministry of Education to succeed Dr. Radu Al Waifi who will retire as of June 1, 1988.

Until his appointment in the new post Masri had been director general of the Ministry of Labour's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC).

His replacement at the VTC has not been announced yet.

Assad leaves for Kuwait to discuss education

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian education delegation Sunday left for Kuwait on an official visit at the invitation of Kuwait's Minister of Higher Education Anwar Al Nouri.

The delegation, led by Minister of Higher Education Nasreddine Al Assad, will spend five days in Kuwait meeting with officials and touring educational

institutions.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Assad was scheduled to meet with the Kuwaiti Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and the heir apparent, and will hold talks with senior Kuwaiti officials on coordinating cooperation between Kuwaiti and Jordanian universities as well as technical training institutes in the two countries.

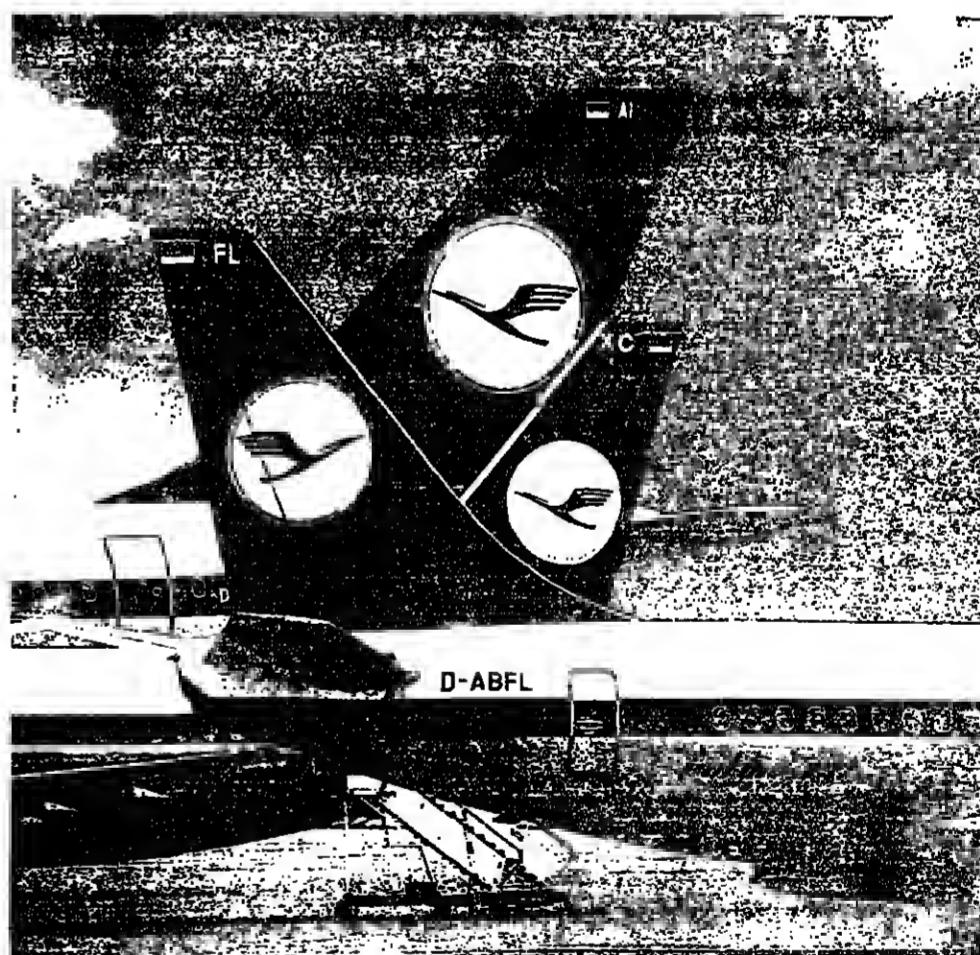
Population symposium starts

AMMAN (Petra) — A regional symposium on population and the development of human resources began here Saturday at the University of Jordan in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, the Royal Scientific Society and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The university's acting president, in a speech at the opening

ceremony, said that the most dangerous population challenge, which the Arab nation was facing at present, was the Israeli occupation of Arab territories and Israel's continuing plans to annex Arab lands, uproot Arab populations from their homeland, confiscate Arab lands and properties as well as Israel's violation of human rights.

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PRINCESS SARVATH: Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Sunday inaugurated an art exhibition by George Kaplanian, held at the Goethe Institute. George's 45 paintings feature sceneries from Jordan and Syria.

EXHIBITION: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday will open a general exhibition organised at the Ajloun Community College for Girls. The exhibition, which displays educational aids, books and needle work, will remain open to the public until May 26, according to Al Dustour newspaper. The paper said Princess Basma will later open an exhibition at the Jerash Girls Schools and will attend a ceremony for the graduation of the school's third secondary class.

CHILEAN ENVOY: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai met Sunday with Chilean Ambassador to Jordan Carlos Derpsch and discussed bilateral relations. Later, the Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat received the Chilean ambassador and discussed prospects of bilateral cooperation in voluntary work.

PARENTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION: The Parents Teachers Association of the New English School held its meeting and elected a nine-member board of directors to supervise the school's affairs. The board comprises: Mrs. Thefa as chairman; Mrs. Uhaidah Bushnaq, Secretary; Mrs. Laila Madi, treasurer; Mrs. Siham Samaan, social committee; Mrs. Samira Goussous, Public relations; Mrs. Moaa Abu Yaghi, member; Mr. Basil Kirresh, member; Mrs. Olivia Santos and Mona Alam representing the teaching staff. The committee proposed a plan for the next scholastic year.

PETROL STATIONS: The government has given its consent for setting up of petrol within the Greater Amman region and within the zones of municipalities, according to an official announcement by the Prime Ministry Sunday. The announcement said that petrol stations can be set up only in those areas approved by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Civil Defence Department (CDD), as well as concerned municipal authorities.

CANADIAN ENVOY: Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Michael Bell Sunday toured the Royal Jordanian Geographical Centre where he was briefed by the centre's director on the centre's establishment and future projects.

EDUCATION: Production and exchange of educational programmes, addressed to students in the occupied Arab territories have been the subject of discussion at a meeting held Sunday for a special pan-Arab committee in charge of educational programmes to Arab students in the occupied Arab territories.

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 20-year-old youth identified only as A.M.A. was killed by 19-year-old H.F.H. at Jahal Hussein refugee camp Saturday according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily.

The report said that the victim was killed by a switch knife during a quarrel involving several people.



The Polish folk troupe performs at the opening ceremony of the Polish Week Saturday (Petra photo)

2-week Polish folkloric events begin in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-week Polish event was inaugurated at the Jerusalem International Hotel in Amman Saturday by Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni. The event includes dances performed by the Polish folkloric troupe and national Polish dishes, as well as a fashion show and a film show, depicting tourist sites in Poland.

The Polish Charge d'Affaires in Amman Marian Dabrowski

addressed the opening ceremony in which he said that Jordan's trade with Poland now stands at \$40 million annually, and described relations between the two countries as "developing and progressing in cultural, tourist and commercial fields."

Dabrowski said his country would welcome any visit by Jordanian folk troupes and hopes that the event would further boost friendly ties between the two countries.

'Hall of Graves' sheds light into Bahrain's mysterious past

By Patrick Werr

Reuters

BAHRAYN — Archaeologists in Bahrain have been racing against time to examine thousands of ancient burial mounds before bulldozers destroy them for ever.

Modern progress has wiped out more than a third of the 80,000 graves — some up to 4,500 years old — in the largest cemetery of its kind in the world.

But part of what the archaeologists have saved will be preserved in a hall of graves at Bahrain's new national museum, due to open in December.

Some graves were in the path of a billion-dollar causeway which now links Bahrain to Saudi Arabia. Others were buried under a modern housing scheme.

Two mounds, one in the oldest style and one later, will be brought intact from the desert to the hall of graves. A preserved dabb — a big desert lizard — will guard the tombs.

Bahrain, a palm-covered island made green by fresh water springs, was the base of the ancient Dilmun empire whose trade stretched from the Indus Valley in Pakistan to Mesopotamia in present-day Iraq.

Archaeologist Bruno Frohlich, of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, said 10 years of research had revealed a well-organized Bahraini culture that had grown very wealthy.

Studies on thousands of skeletons revealed that

Bahrainis 4,000 years ago lived longer than contemporaries in other parts of the Middle East, said Frohlich, a biologist by training.

Some skeletons bore signs of diseases of old age like arthritis and fluorosis, an ailment caused by excess fluoride.

Few broken bones indicated little warfare and there were indications of a people cared for and supported by other members of the society, Frohlich said. The resources allotted to grave-building indicated a wealthy society.

Solid bedrock made it difficult to bury the dead underground. Mounds were built in two styles. Crude 4,500-year-old burial chambers of uncut stone are found scattered in dry river beds on high ground.

Some 17,000 such mounds were built over a 300-year period. Bronze objects, seals and pottery were placed inside.

The pottery, of designs common in other parts of the Gulf, indicated active regional trade 4,000 years ago.

Mound styles changed around 2200 B.C. and over the next 500 years 67,000 increasingly sophisticated tombs were built closer to fresh water and settlements.

Frohlich said the change marked a shift in society itself which had become more dependent on land cultivation and trade.

The ancient settlements have not been found, probably because modern villages stand on the same sites.

Professional builders pre-

pared the burial mounds, the size depending on the wealth of the client.

A stone chamber, aligned on the rising sun, was surrounded by a wall and the area between the two was filled with sand.

The body was laid in a flexed position with knees drawn under the chin. Objects set alongside it included bronze-ware, carved steatite, baskets of palm leaf and bitumen, sacrificial goats and sheep.

Men's and women's graves differed little and children were buried in small chambers along the mound's periphery.

Frohlich said research had thrown cold water on a widespread belief that Mesopotamians used Bahrain for burials.

The theory held that a small native population in Bahrain would not have needed so many graves.

Mesopotamians considered Bahrain a sacred land, and some experts believed they could have sent their dead to the island for burial. "I have been fighting that theory for years," said Frohlich, who contends that, on the contrary, not enough graves have been found for the number of people Bahrain could have supported over 800 years.

Because the graves were so visible, he said, they appeared more numerous than in other countries where the dead were buried below ground.

"The question is what happened to the rest of the people? Where were they buried?" said Frohlich.

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An aerial view of one of the burial sites in Bahrain

Photo courtesy: The Dilmun Burial Complex at Ser. by Dr. M. Mughal



Human and animal motifs on the Dilmun stamp seals

Syria said to have Hizbollah guarantee

Fadlallah pledges to help free hostages

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's most influential Shi'ite Muslim cleric has pledged to help free foreign hostages and a newspaper reported that Syria had secured a pledge from the pro-Iranian Hizbollah militia to protect the safety of the captives held in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Most of the 18 foreign hostages in Lebanon, believed to be Americans, are believed held by extremists affiliated with Hizbollah inside the 40-square-kilometre slums, the scene of fierce clashes between Hizbollah and the Syrian-backed Amal militia.

Hizbollah's spiritual guide, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, said: "I feel with the families of the hostages and I am doing all I can to reach a happy ending."

Fadlallah promised to "invest all my energies" to resolve the hostage problem and said: "I am still exerting pressure to reach a humanitarian solution." He did not say who he was pressuring.

Fadlallah released his statement late Saturday night through

Ray Barnett, a Canadian clergyman who represents the U.S.-based Friends in the West, a Christian human rights group which has been working for release of the Lebanon hostages.

Barnett, 50, from Vancouver, who is staying in a resort town northeast of Beirut, said he established contact with Fadlallah, without explaining how.

Meanwhile the Al Ittihad newspaper of Abu Dhabi reported Sunday that Hizbollah has pledged to the Syrians to safeguard all hostages held in the slums as part of a negotiated, eight-point agreement to regulate the Syrian deployment.

Quoting a senior political source in Beirut, Al Ittihad said that Damascus had conveyed to

Ali Mohammad Besharati, Iran's deputy foreign minister, the message that Syria "would consider any harm inflicted on the hostages as an action directed against it."

Soviet emigres forced to Israel

AMMAN (J.T.) — In an effort to stem the tide of Soviet Jewish emigres who settle in the United States and other Western countries, Israel is now issuing exit visas only in the Romanian capital of Bucharest and requiring that emigres fly from there direct to Israel, reports the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU).

The latest issue of the CAABU bulletin said that previously, Jews leaving the Soviet Union received their Israeli visas at the Dutch embassy in Moscow which, in the absence of Israeli-Soviet diplomatic relations, represents Israel's interests in the Soviet Union. After travelling to Vienna, the emigres were supposed to go on to Israel, but most have opted for the United States.

Reporting the new restrictions, the Jerusalem Post noted that "Moscow (Jewish) activists said that the bid to steer Jews toward Israel may backfire: if Israel is their only alternative, some Jews may opt to remain in the Soviet Union."

One of the activists, Sergei Mkrtchyan, was quoted as saying that he knew of some half dozen foreigners in the country, half of whom speak English, gives us a chance to convince them of our just causes and convert them into supporters when they return to their countries," Al Khaleej said.

Khaleej Times editor Mabbub Jamali Zahedi said his newspaper "always highlighted Arab events" and paid special attention to local coverage.

Gulf News editor Bikram Vohra refused to comment.

Zinchuk: Mideast figures high on summit agenda

(Continued from page 1)

area with no viable solution to the conflict but would rather make "effective and positive trips" which would help the different parties agree upon a route which would guarantee a peaceful settlement."

Palestinian representation

Zinchuk said the issue of Palestinian representation in peace talks was discussed by His Majesty King Hnssin and the Soviet leadership during the King's December 1987 visit to Moscow. There was no point of conflict between Jordan and the Soviet Union on the essence of this issue, the ambassador said.

Zinchuk accused the international media and Israeli press of "intentionally distorting the Soviet image in the Arab World."

Zinchuk described the latest American peace proposal for the Middle East as "one-sided, not taking into account the different angles and needs of the issue at hand." He said that the Soviet Union was not interested in frequently sending envoys to the

take one of three options: a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, a joint Arab delegation or a separate Palestinian delegation, the ambassador said.

Three more Palestinians killed

(Continued from page 1)

after hundreds of protesters pelted troops with stones on an avenue recently renamed for slain Palestinian leader Khalil Wazir, officials at Gaza City's Ahli Hospital said.

Israel has been blamed for the April 16 assassination of Wazir, who was gunned down at his home in a Tunis suburb.

Two boys were hit by rubber bullets in the Nablus incident. Another three were treated for heating injuries, according to hospital officials.

The army said it would reopen schools in the West Bank Monday.

Zinchuk praised King Hussein for his mediation efforts which contributed to a solution of the Afghanistan problem and Soviet withdrawal from the country.

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Analysts see market unease continuing till U.S. elections

LONDON (R) — Last week, it seemed as if dealers in financial markets got everything they have been hoping for since the crash of 87. They reacted by selling stocks.

Economists say the glum reaction to news of a sharp drop in the massive U.S. trade deficit, of an OECD forecast that the global economy would be more buoyant than it thought, and of modest U.S. inflation may reflect an uneasiness that is likely to continue until the U.S. presidential election in November.

"The fundamentals are looking good," said D. Sykes Wilford, an economist with Chase Manhattan Bank's London office. "The economy is growing like mad... the dollar should be rising, stocks should be up."

But there are other concerns still in the background.

That is why dealers were not encouraged by last week's report of an unexpectedly sharp drop in the U.S. trade deficit, to \$9.7 billion in March after nearly \$14 billion in February, economists say.

The trade deficit, raising fears that Americans were spending more dollars than the rest of the world wanted to hold, helped set off last October's crash.

"The March U.S. trade figures were 'good,' but the general

trend is simply not good enough," wrote columnist William Keegan in the London Sunday Observer.

"The worry is that the kind of imbalances which led to last October's crash have not gone away," he added. "The U.S. strategy is to put off the day of reckoning until after the presidential election in November."

That election could weigh on markets for some time — especially since Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, the front-running candidate for the Democratic Party, is ahead of likely Republican nominee, Vice President George Bush, in the latest opinion polls, said Wilford, at Chase Manhattan.

Financial markets tend to prefer Republican presidents, he noted. Many are worried that Dukakis would raise taxes to cut the massive U.S. budget deficit. Higher taxes would slow growth, cut company profits and make owning shares much less attractive.

The budget deficit has been a big worry on world bond markets.

Traders expect the United States will have to keep selling huge amounts of bonds — basically IOUs — to finance this shortfall.

But they think investors will balk, unless the interest rates paid on those bonds also rise.

In anticipation of this, discounts on U.S. government bonds rose last week, pushing their effective interest rates to the highest levels seen yet this year.

"All those people who thought the U.S. budget deficit was getting better have come to the realisation that (it) is not true," said Marilyn Scobja, an economist with Wall Street giant Donaldson Lufkin Jenrette Securities Inc.

In world stock markets, some dealers say they are worried that governments will push interest rates higher to cool inflation.

Just like higher taxes, costlier borrowing would cut business profits and slow economic growth, dealers fear.

So they shrugged off the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD's) report last week that it expected the American, Japanese and West German economies to grow more quickly than it first forecast after the crash.

But dealers say they are worried that the price for cutting the massive U.S. trade deficit is inflation.

They worry that the higher prices on imports which follow a slump in the dollar will push prices up across the board and that strong economic growth will also rekindle inflation.

Bank of Jordan posts less profit

By Shafi Nicholas

AMMAN — Bank of Jordan earned JD 1,407,761 during 1987, nearly 35 per cent less than the JD 2,153,034 the bank earned during 1986.

The bank also raised its reserves for doubtful loans by JD 580,000, more than double the amount of JD 236,000 it kept aside for potential loss in 1986.

As a result, the net profit of the bank declined from a high of JD 1,916,934 to JD 827,761 at the end of 1987, but the bank opted to distribute dividends at a rate of 10 per cent which amounts to JD 525,000 as a whole compared to JD 776,000 at the end of 1986.

The 1987 balance sheet showed total assets/liabilities standing at JD 121,659,607, down by nearly JD 5 million from the 1986 total. The lower figure resulted from a

decline in discounted bills and loans, and from a drop in current accounts and demand deposits in addition to decreases in borrowed funds from other banks and financial institutions, cash collateral and other items.

Off balance sheet items (guarantees, letters of credit and acceptances) amounted to JD 21,281,114 in 1987 compared to JD 22,433,519 at the end of 1986.

Jordan's exports double in January

AMMAN (Petra + J.T.) — Jordan's exports in January 1988 amounted to JD 21,316,157 against JD 10,114,704 in the same month of last year according to official figures released Sunday.

The figures show that Jordan's exports to Iraq increased by 256 per cent and there were substantial increases in national exports to North America and other Arab countries.

Exports to Europe increased by 66 per cent and to Syria by 59 per cent.

These figures show that Jordan has been exporting leather products, furniture, kitchens, materials used for packaging, plastics, phosphate, potash, fertilisers.

chemical products, textiles, food supplies and building materials.

According to the release, Jordan's exports in February 1988 amounted to JD 17,981,440 against JD 5,224,000 in February of 1987.

According to a report in Al Dustour Arabic newspaper, Jordan's imports from countries of the European Community (EC) registered a decline of more than JD 35 million in the first 10 months of 1987.

Jordan imported goods worth JD 215 million in the first 10 months of 1987 against JD 250 million in the same period of the previous year, the report said.

It said that this decline is bound

to stem the drain of hard currency flowing abroad to pay for imported commodities.

According to the report, Jordan imported goods from Belgium, West Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Holland, Denmark, Greece, and Spain. Jordan also imported products from Austria, Sweden and Switzerland among other non-EC countries, the report noted.

It said that between January and October of 1987, Jordan exported JD 13 million worth of national products to these European countries compared with JD 12,779 million in the same period of 1986.

Saudi cement firm seeks loan rescheduling after 1987 loss

BAHRAIN (R) — The construction industry hit by declining oil revenues, Saudi Arabia's newest cement producer has asked creditors to reschedule 750 million riyals (\$200 million) in loans.

bankers said Sunday.

The Saudi-Kuwaiti Cement Co. last week reported a 1987 net loss of 46.9 million riyals (\$12.5 million), its second loss in a row in three years of operation.

Bankers said negotiations to reschedule two major loans, one a syndication with 14 commercial banks and the other a loan from the government-owned Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF), were nearing conclusion.

"Basically we're in agreement — we're waiting for approval from one bank," said a banker involved in the negotiations.

Saudi-Kuwaiti General Manager Hassan Badr told Reuters the

company had asked banks to stretch out payments on a 450 million riyal syndicated loan (\$120 million) signed in June, 1985.

The loan was divided into a 350 million (\$93 million) term facility due to mature in 1992 and a 100 million riyal (\$27 million) revolving two-year credit to be repaid on June 1 this year.

The company, based in the kingdom's Eastern Province, said it was able to make the first instalment of the term loan in June 1987, but fell behind on a 47 million riyal (\$12.5 million) second instalment in December.

Bankers said about 323 million riyals (\$86 million) was still outstanding on the term facility and 49 million riyals (\$13 million) on the revolving credit.

Lead managers in the syndication were National Commercial Bank (NCB), Riyad Bank and Al Bank Al Saudi Al Fransi, all based in Saudi Arabia. NCB was also the agent bank.

Bankers said they believed the company had missed instalments on its 400 million (\$107 million) SIDF loan, too, making a total of around 750 million riyals.

Cement producers in Saudi Arabia say industry profits have plummeted over the last few years as major infrastructure projects begun during the oil boom years have wound down.

In its annual report published in a Saudi newspaper last week, Saudi-Kuwaiti said its net loss increased to 46.9 million riyals (\$12.5 million) from 27.7 million riyals (\$7 million) in 1986.

visit to Manila Sunday, to help promote the aid proposal in Europe.

"There is no way this money is being used to assist development," he said.

Delegates will be asked to approve a report tabled at a U.N. conference in Jakarta in April which said "there can be no justification for hunger amidst food surpluses."

The report asked countries with surplus food to contribute to the scheme and help with the cost of shipping it.

It said a donation of up to 25 million tonnes of cereals could provide \$2.5 billion.

The conference will also consider a U.N. paper on famine in Africa and food shortages in Asia and Latin America.

"Unnecessary child deaths caused by malnutrition and poverty remain at unacceptably high levels," it said.

"Earlier progress in fighting hunger, malnutrition and poverty has come to a halt or is being reversed in many parts of the world," it concluded.

U.N. urges selling surplus food to help poor

NICOSIA (R) — Food surpluses of rich nations should be sold to help poor states pay their debts, a United Nations meeting in Cyprus will be told Monday.

"The developing countries would use it (the cash) to assist in development, to help their foreign debt," Alain Vidal-Naquet, the United Nations World Food Council's chief of external relations, told reporters.

Delegates from 36 countries to the four-day council meeting will discuss problems of a world where food surpluses exist alongside starvation and poverty.

"We want to see if countries with surpluses can discuss with other developed countries a bridge... not only in food but in money it represents," said Vidal-Naquet.

He said Europe, Canada, the United States and Australia were fighting a trade war based on food subsidies, spending huge sums on stockpiling cereals, milk and butter.

Aquino hopes for early action on aid programme

MANILA (R) — President Corazon Aquino Sunday appealed to Western nations to push ahead with a multi-billion dollar aid package for the Philippines and asked foreign creditors to lighten her country's debt repayment burden.

Aquino also defended the United States, which is organising the aid effort, against charges of having ulterior motives, saying, "we... must give others benefit of the doubt and not always suspect they have bad intentions toward us."

Washington and Manila are currently holding talks on the future of U.S. bases in the Philippines. The bases treaty expires in 1991, and the U.S. wants to renew it. They deny the aid offered is linked to this wish.

Aquino said she had asked Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who ended a four-day

visit to Manila Sunday, to help promote the aid proposal in Europe.

The Washington Post has reported the U.S. will try to put together a \$10 billion five year package with its allies.

U.S. officials have confirmed a plan was being considered.

"I hope they can come up with a plan so they can help us with our economic recovery programme," Aquino said in a pre-recorded radio message, a transcript of which was released by the presidential palace.

She also urged foreign creditors to be more lenient in exacting debt dues from her cash-strapped country.

Aquino's appeal came amid efforts by Philippine finance officials to negotiate easier debt repayment terms with 483 creditor banks.

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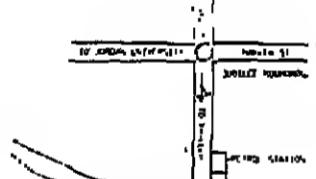
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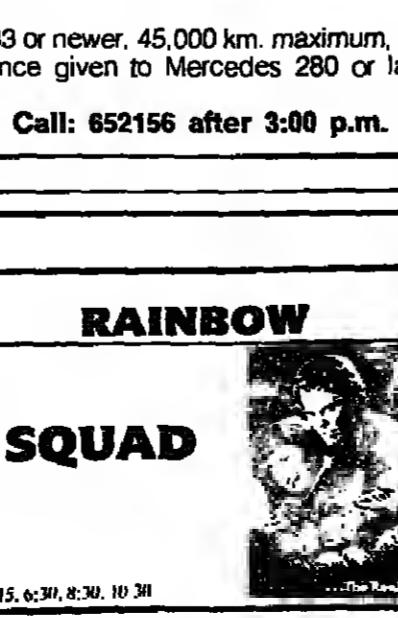
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Amman to host 1990 Asian Table Tennis Championship Chen bags men's singles

NTIGA TA, Japan (Agencies) — China's Chen Longcan Sunday won the Asian Table Tennis Championships men's singles and attributed his victory to three cups of coffee drunk just before the game.

Chen, the world's third-ranking player, beat South Korea's Yoo Nam-Kyu 21-18, 21-13, 21-13 to give China a total of four out of seven titles in the tournament, with South Korea winning the other three.

Yoo beat world champion and defending Asian champion, China's Jiang Jialiang, to gain a place in the final, but Chen, 24, proved too strong for him.

"In the last couple of days, I haven't been feeling too wide-awake, so I didn't play as well as I'd like, but after three cups of coffee today, I was more alert," Chen said.

Jiang's defeat in the semi-finals ended what has been a disappointing tournament for him. He lost in both the doubles and mixed doubles and dropped China's only set against the North Koreans in the team events.

"I've been sick recently, I didn't play as well as I can," Jiang said. "But it doesn't matter, you win some, you lose some."

Asked his opinion of Yoo's play, Jiang said: "I can beat him, he's good but I know I can beat him."

Both men's and women's event victors said their next aim was to win the gold medal at the Seoul Olympics in September, where table tennis will be featured for the first time.

In the All-Chinese Women's Singles, top-seeded He Zhihui needed four sets to defeat Jiao Zhihui 21-12, 19-21, 21-13, 21-9 in the women's singles finals. It was her third Asian Championship.

"I think each nation's technical skills are almost the same now," he told reporters. "So the mental problem is more important for the victory."

North Korea, one of the giants in Asian table tennis, withdrew from the championship Friday to protest the Japanese government's order to leave a reception hosted in its honour because it amounted to a "political act."

The next Asian Table Tennis Championship will be held in Amman, Jordan, in 1990, it was announced.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦KQ6 ♦AQ2 ♦T2 ♦AKB72

What is your opening bid?

A.—You have 17 HCP and a balanced hand, so one no trump describes your hand perfectly. Don't let the weak doubleton dissuade you from making your natural bid. If you open one club and partner responds one diamond, you will have no good rebid.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦A193 ♦KQ8 ♦Q7 ♦652

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ Pass

2 NT Pass 1 ♦ Pass

What did you bid now?

A.—Partner is showing a six-card suit and, at the same time, denying a four-card major. Therefore, there is no point in mentioning your hearts. Jump in three no trump.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ Pass

1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦KJ63 ♦AJ92 ♦K986 ♦46

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ Pass

2 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—You don't need much from partner to make game—a minimum opening bid with heart support could be enough. But if you bid one heart partner might pass. Correct is a jump shift to two hearts, which is forcing for one round and promises a good fit for opener's suit.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦KQ1653 ♦6 ♦9852

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.7—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.8—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.9—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.10—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.11—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.12—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.13—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.14—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.15—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.16—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.17—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.18—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.19—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.20—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ Dbl Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, and you have a five-card no trumps, but this hand certainly warrants such action. Partner is expecting some defensive values from you, and you are contributing nothing. You would not have been faced with this problem had you made a weak jump overall of two spades in the first place.

Q.21—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦72 ♦KJ63 ♦76532 ♦94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1

Pakistan vows to abide by Geneva Afghan agreements

LAHORE (Agencies) — Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo Sunday denied Soviet and Afghan charges that Pakistan had violated the N.-mediated accords on Afghanistan.

He made the statement to reporters before leaving for Peking, which will also visit South Korea and the Philippines.

On Friday, Soviet officials asked the Afghan government's urging that Pakistan was supporting Afghan rebels with arms in violation of the agreements in Geneva last month. "We respect the Geneva accords... and will take the steps necessary to implement them," Junejo said when asked about the accords.

He said he would use his overstay in Peking to discuss the Afghan situation following the Geneva accords, under which the Soviet Union began withdrawing estimated 115,000 troops from Afghanistan last week.

Islamabad and Kabul are committed by the accords not to interfere in each other's internal affairs.

China and Pakistan both have backed the Afghan rebels, who also supported by Western Arab countries. Junejo is due to meet Chinese Foreign Minister Li Peng and Communist Party Chief Zhao Ziyang. Pakistani President Mohammad

Zia Ul Haq is due to begin an eight-day visit to China May 30.

Junejo will stay in Hong Kong Monday and visit South Korea from May 24 to 27 and Philippines from May 27 to 29.

Kabul lodged a second complaint about the violation of the Geneva accords to United Nations observers Thursday.

"The shipping of arms and ammunition from Pakistan into the territory of the republic of Afghanistan is an obvious violation of the Geneva agreements," a Soviet Foreign Ministry statement Friday said.

Pakistan plays host to an estimated three million Afghan refugees and the main Mujahideen groups fighting the Kabul government.

Mujahideen plans

The main Pakistan-based Mujahideen alliance said Saturday its field commanders from the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar had chalked out a programme of attack on the provincial capital of Jalalabad.

The Soviet pullout was led by 1,200 troops who left Jalalabad April 14.

The guerrillas say they want to "liberate" an important area of Afghanistan to set up their proposed government there.

The alliance said in a statement issued in the north-western Pakistani town of Peshawar that it would soon send delegations to foreign countries to introduce the policies and programmes of the proposed government.

Soviets continue pullout

A second Soviet military unit withdrawing from Afghanistan arrived back in the border town of Termez Saturday, the TASS news agency said.

The motorised rifle unit was greeted by relatives and friends, city officials and youth delegations from several Soviet republics, TASS said.

They continued on to an unspecified new base after resting briefly in the border town, located in the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan.

The first 1,300 soldiers to leave, a motorised rifle division that had been stationed in Jalalabad, crossed the border early Wednesday. They were greeted by honking horns, banners and a rally attended by Afghanistan's defence minister.

TASS said the unit that arrived home Saturday was one of the first sent to Afghanistan, and that during its term it had accompanied 679 shipments of goods for Afghan civilians. TASS did not say where it had been based.

J.S.-Philippines base talks reportedly near collapse

ANILA (AP) — Talks between United States and the Philippines on the future of U.S. military bases are near collapse because of wide differences between the two sides, Manila newspapers report.

U.S. officials declined comment on the reports, which reared Saturday and Sunday in major dailies. The two governments last month began reviewing the current agreement under which the United States retains six installations here, including Subic Bay Naval Base and Clark Air Base.

Manila newspapers quoted an unnamed "ranking Filipino diplomat" as saying the two sides were "at odds apart" on virtually every issue, including compensation.

Report says 647 persons missing' in Sri Lanka

LOMBO (AP) — An independent newspaper claimed Sunday that as many as 647 cases of missing people have been reported to police in Sri Lanka since March and April.

A spokeswoman of the movement told the AP the cases only involve people who saw security personnel arrest people later reported missing.

"During the 18 years our organisation has been in existence, we have been very careful how we categorise a person who was alleged to have disappeared," she said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"If he or she was arrested, we check with independent witnesses. If the victim has been in a police cell or an army detention camp, we check with others to the same predicament," she said.

The newspaper said reports by concerned relatives show missing people were linked to island's turbulent politics, but spokesman for police headquarters refused comment.

In the past, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said that if individuals or organisations, local and foreign, took up the issue of missing people in Sri Lankan courts, his government would be prepared to investigate.

But he said allegations of disappearances based on hearsay or hints are common and lack credibility.

The Civil Rights Movement (CRM) of Sri Lanka, however, been urging the government let the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) search for the missing people. Desmond Fernando, CRM secretary, said in a statement today the "scenario of deaths in custody, disappearances and killings, while receding in the north east, has now unfolded in the

criminal jurisdiction and security.

The newspapers quoted the source as saying the Philippine government would rather break off the talks "than be criticised later for succumbing to the Americans."

He accused the U.S. panel, led by Ambassador Nicholas Platt, of "stowawaying" on virtually every issue.

U.S. diplomats here have privately complained that the Philippine panel violated an understanding by leaking details on the negotiations, which began April 5.

The current talks cover only the status of the bases through 1991, when the current agreement expires. However, the outcome is expected to determine

whether Manila allows the bases to remain after 1991.

Under the current constitution, any extension must be provided for in a formal treaty approved by two-thirds of the 23-member senate, where anti-bases sentiment is strong.

President Corazon Aquino has agreed to honour the current agreement but refuses to say whether she would support an extension. Her term expires in 1992 and she has ruled out seeking re-election.

Resentment of foreign — particularly American — influence has run deep in Philippine society for generations. In 1988, the United States helped Filipino insurgents defeat Spanish rulers, then turned against them and took over the country after a two-year guerrilla war.

In 1946, the United States granted independence to the Philippines but forced the new government to accept a trade measure under which American firms had equal rights with Filipino companies to draw from the nation's resources.

U.S. support for Marcos, including acquiescence of his 1972 declaration of martial law, revived anti-American sentiment in the generation that now wields considerable influence over the nation's government and mass media.

As an example, a new musical, written by foreign secretary Raul Manglapus, opens Friday at a Manila theatre, depicting a Filipino view of historical relations with the United States.

Columnist Hilario Henares, writing in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, suggested American diplomats attend the musical, entitled "Yank-Yank," to see "the hypocrisy, the deceit, the betrayal, the vicious greed, the love-hate that characterise Philippine-American relations today."

The newspaper said reports by concerned relatives show missing people were linked to island's turbulent politics, but spokesman for police headquarters refused comment.

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custody, disappearances and killings, while receding in the north east, has now unfolded in the

Arab Americans show political strength in California

WASHINGTON (J.T.) — Arab Americans established themselves as a political force in the California Democratic Party earlier this month. They won significant victories in California's Democratic Party delegate selection caucuses and participated in a dramatic battle over the party's Middle East policy.

The vote on this resolution came after a two-month battle. The resolution was first submitted in March to the California Democratic Council (CDC), the largest caucus of California Democrats, where it passed, 70 to 30 per cent. It then went to the party's state convention, held March 18-20. There, 266 official party delegates signed petitions in support of the resolution, only to see it tabled in a highly controversial move by party chairman Peter D. Kelley. It was Kelley who recommended delaying debate until the April 30 meeting of the executive committee, a meeting attended by only a minority of committee members.

At the meeting, Arab American Democratic Federation Chairman John Zogby spoke in support of the resolution, as did several other Arab American activists invited to speak as experts on the issue.

The Arab American resolution read: "The U.S. should help end the impasse in the Middle East. We

support a policy which supports the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and by calling for an international peace conference to negotiate all outstanding issues in the Arab-Israeli conflict."

The vote on this resolution



A French policeman searches a vehicle in New Caledonia in a stepped-up security drive

French troops reportedly planned using napalm against Kanak rebels

PARIS (AP) — The plotters of the attack that freed 23 hostages held by New Caledonian separatists in a Pacific island cave considered using napalm and laser-guided bombs, the newspaper Le Monde reported Saturday.

Le Monde published what it said were extensive excerpts from the report written by Philippe Legorjus, head of France's anti-terrorist squad who led the assault May 5. Two French soldiers and 19 Melanesian militants were killed in the fighting. Two other militants later died.

In the report, as quoted by Le Monde, Legorjus was critical of Bernard Pons, then overseas territories minister in the conservative government of Jacques Chirac, and other senior officials for rejecting negotiations in favour of dangerous military plans.

The report said plans to use napalm and a laser-guided 250-kilogramme bomb were put aside

only because the attackers were not certain where the cave was.

The hostages, most of them French geodarmes, were seized in two groups April 22 and 27. The separatists were demanding appointment of a mediator to discuss independence for New Caledonia.

Le Monde reported that the assault was a boost to Chirac's election prospects. Mitterrand had been urging negotiations with the hostage-takers, although his aides say he ultimately gave his approval for the attack.

Besides the 21 men held in the cave, the government said it considered Legorjus and an assistant prosecutor to be hostages as well for a total of 23, even though the other two were allowed to go back and forth as negotiators.

Legorjus ultimately participated in the planning and execution of the assault that freed the hostages unharmed.

In the report, as published by Le Monde, Legorjus said a peaceful solution was made difficult by the "national political context," an apparent reference

to the imminent May 8 presidential election in which Chirac ultimately lost to Socialist incumbent Francois Mitterrand.

At the time of the assault, it was seen as a boost to Chirac's election prospects. Mitterrand had been urging negotiations with the hostage-takers, although his aides say he ultimately gave his approval for the attack.

Chirac, Pons and all other government ministers resigned after the election and have been replaced by the Socialist-led government of Premier Michel Rocard.

Rocard issued a statement Saturday afternoon saying he was "determined to bring to light" the truth about the attack.

Pons and other French officials have denied reports that some of the separatists were killed after being captured alive in the assault.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

2nd U.S. nuclear blast in 8 days

YUCCA FLAT, Nevada (AP) — An underground nuclear weapons test rocked the Nevada test site Saturday, the second blast at the desert facility in the past eight days, an official said. The test, code-named "Laredo," was originally scheduled Thursday, but it was postponed because of strong winds blowing toward Las Vegas, about 120 kilometres to the southeast. The U.S. Department of Energy, which oversees the testing programme, prohibits blasts under certain weather conditions. Jim Boyer, an energy department spokesman, said the test was not as large as the 150-kilogram maximum limit adhered to by the United States and the Soviet Union, but he declined to reveal the weapon's power. He said the blast appeared normal, with no indications that radioactivity had escaped. The nuclear warhead was detonated about 365 metres underground as seven Soviet scientists spent the weekend in nearby Mercury, Nevada, a small town about 50 kilometres from ground zero. The town houses test site workers.

Vietnam's foreign minister visits Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — Vietnam's foreign minister arrived in Moscow Saturday, just days after Thailand's prime minister visited to discuss an agreement that could lead to the withdrawal of Vietnamese soldiers from Kampuchea. Nguyen Co Thach arrived in Moscow on his way to a meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Havana and a special session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, the news agency TASS said. It did not say how long he would stay or with whom he would meet in Moscow. Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda met Wednesday with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev in Moscow, who told him all parties to the Kampuchean conflict should be included in a settlement. Thailand's foreign minister, Siddhi Savetsila, said Thursday upon returning to Bangkok that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze promised to talk to Vietnamese officials about removing their soldiers from Kampuchea. Like other countries in non-Communist Southeast Asia, Thailand has told the Soviets that relations cannot improve unless the Soviets work to settle the Kampuchean conflict.

18 feared drowned in Bangladesh storm

DHAKA (R) — Eighteen fishermen were feared drowned after their boat capsized in rainstorms sweeping Bangladesh, officials said Sunday. They said the boat went down off the island of Hatia, near the Ganges Delta, with 23 people on board. Five made it ashore but the rest were missing. "Searchers believe the others have died and been swept far off by winds and currents," one official told reporters. The storm, packing winds of up to 80 kilometres per hour, flattened hundreds of tin houses across the country, injuring at least 50 people. Heavy rains flooded the streets of Dhaka, the capital, forcing businesses to close.

U.S. federal judge shot at home

PELHAM, New York (AP) — A federal judge was shot and killed at his home in this wealthy New York City suburb Saturday by an assailant who then committed suicide, police said. It was believed to be only the second slaying of a federal judge this century. Richard J. Daronco, 56, was in a garage at the side of his home when a man approached with a handgun about 1815 GMT, police chief Anthony M. Quaranta said. The judge fled to the back yard, where he was shot several times, he said. Daronco then ran into the house, followed by the attacker. Inside, another shot was fired — apparently by the gunman committing suicide. Quaranta said Daronco's wife, a daughter and her boyfriend were in the house when the attack occurred and alerted neighbours who called for police, according to a police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity. Police arrived within a few minutes and found a man on the ground floor with a gunshot wound to the head and a 38-calibre revolver near his hand, Quaranta said. Daronco was found in a study a few feet away, his sweater and sweatpants soaked in blood, he said. Daronco died of multiple gunshot wounds to various parts of the body, said Dr. Louis Rob, deputy medical examiner for Westchester County, who pronounced both men dead at the scene about 2000 GMT. Rob said the other man, who he described as white and in his late 60s, died of a single gunshot wound to the head, apparently from the same gun.

Maniacs offer hot stuff

LONDON (R) — A new travel club called "Holidays for Maniacs" is offering trips to war zones around the world. Insurance is not included. The club, which charges £100 (S15) for membership, will offer accommodation and travel to hot spots in Central America and the Gulf when it starts business next week, tour coordinator Helen Helder said Friday. A Middle East tour might include stops in Iraq, the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Beirut, where the company is negotiating with a hotel in the mountains overlooking the Lebanese capital. The company is the idea of Steve Pearce, a 25-year-old businessman whose independent record label "Some Bizarre Records" recently scored a cult hit with the West German band Einstuerzende Neubauten (new collapsing buildings). The instruments they favour include industrial chainsaws and pneumatic drills.

Michael Jackson performs impossible feat

ROME (AP) — Pop superstar Michael Jackson kept Italy's show business stars waiting for 90 minutes at the start of a two-month-long foreign concert tour. But when he arrived at the U.S. embassy residence, he managed to engineer a near-impossible feat: Getting longtime rival Italian actresses Sophia Loren and Gina Lollobrigida to pose in the same picture with him. The American singer flew into Rome with an entourage of 90 people. The Villa Taverna, the 19th century residence of U.S. Ambassador Maxwell Rabb, was filled with stars of the Italian entertainment industry for a reception in Jackson's honour. Jackson was immediately embraced by Loren as he entered the residence. She later said Jackson was "an old friend." In another room Lollobrigida, a star of the 1950s who is now a photographer, was holding court with Italian fashion designers Valentino and Renato Balestra. The two actresses later came together in the same room and posed for photos with Jackson. Loren's rivalry with Lollobrigida has been the delight of Italy's pulp press for the past three decades, and they have rarely appeared together in public.

1 killed, 35 hurt in Punjab blast

AMRITSAR (R) — Sikh extremists bombed a railway station in Punjab Sunday, killing one of thousands of Hindu migrant labourers fleeing the state in fear of attacks on them.

Police said 35 people, including migrant labourers, were hurt in the blast in the industrial city of Ludhiana at about 10.20 a.m. (0450 GMT). The dead man was waiting to buy a ticket home, witnesses said.

Ludhiana police, who revised an earlier death toll of four given by police in the state capital Chandigarh, said two people were seriously wounded.

The toll would have been higher if the bomb, planted beside a second class ticket counter, had gone off while a crowd of about 50 people were watching a serial of a Hindu epic on a nearby television set, they said.

The bomb went off just after the programme ended and the crowd had dispersed, police added.

On Saturday, Punjab Police chief K.P.S. Gill ordered his men to protect migrant labourers in a bid to stop them from fleeing home to other states in fear of attacks by Sikh extremists, who are fighting to set up a separate state in Punjab called Khalistan (Land of the pure).

Nearly 60 migrant labourers have been killed in the past week, part of the extremists' strategy to frighten Hindus out of Punjab, where Sikhs are barely in majority.

The migrant labourers are essential to the Punjab economy and every year some 800,000 of them come looking for work to the prosperous agricultural state.

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